# NOTE XIX.

## SOME REMARKS UPON CERTAIN SPECIES OF CORYPHOCERA

BY

**J. R. H. NEERVOORT VAN DE POLL.**

In a recent paper (Deutsche Ent. Zeitschr. 1895, Heft II, p. 281, not yet published) of which through the kindness of the author I received the other day a separate copy, Dr. Heller of the Dresden Museum describes under the name of *Heterorrhina Schadenbergi* a pretty new species of *Coryphocera* from Busuanga, a small island between Mindoro and Palawan.

*C. Schadenbergi* is allied much more closely to *C. versicolor* Jans. from Jolo island, which Dr. Heller has overlooked, than to any of the species with which he compares it.

I have had already for a few years a female *Coryphocera* from North-Palawan (Dr. Platen), which I regarded as belonging to *versicolor*. Not long ago I got also a male from South-Palawan and an other female from the small island Balabac (near the southern extremity of Palawan), both collected by Mr. Waterstradt, and as the above material happened to be not yet incorporated in the collection, the receipt of Dr. Heller's paper induced me to bring all my specimens together for a more close examination.

My Palawan and Balabac specimens agree well enough with the description and figures of *Schadenbergi*, however their elytral sculpture is less distinct and the dentiform

prolongation of the reflexed front margin of the head looks less pointed, somewhat more truncated than in the Busuanga type. But on the other hand comparing the mentioned specimens with *versicolor*, the only peculiarities I am able to enumerate for the latter are the still more obsolete sculpture of the elytra, the broader and slightly emarginate frontal process, the brown colour of the antennae, the almost entire absence of black on the margins of the abdominal segments as also on the male ventral depression, and finally, the somewhat different shape of the black spots on the uppersurface.

Although the differences here recorded may look quite sufficient to differentiate both species conveniently, I feel almost sure the examination of a more extensive material (and if it may be from a still greater number of localities) will prove that we have to deal with local races of one and the same species. Even when taking material from a single locality, Coryphoceras frequently vary both in coloration and in sculpture, and very little strength may be laid on characteristics derived therefrom. The structure of the head and chiefly of the reflexed frontmargin of the clypeus, which I myself was inclined to consider a sure guide, happens to be a character as perfidious as the rest — among my large material of *C. Dohrni* Lansb. I have several specimens with the frontal process entire and broadly rounded instead of bilobed.

I thought it of interest at once to draw the attention to these Philippine species, which seem to indicate a series of local forms exactly like *decora* Ill., *imperatrix* Mohn. and *Dohrni* Lansb. It is worthy of notice that *C. imperatrix* Mohn. is confined (at least as far as present knowledge goes) to East-Java, whilst in West-Java an other form occurs, which very strongly resembles the Sumatran *C. decora* Ill., only differing from it by the somewhat larger black spots and the more evidently punctured elytra.

It is to be regretted that Dr. Heller repeats the blunder made by Dr. Kraatz concerning the synonymy of *C. impe-*

*ratrix* Mohn. and *dives* Westw. Dr. Kraatz simply overlooked that the female *Coryphocera* figured sub n° 6 on plate 33 of the Arcana Entomologica belongs to Westwood's description of *C. decora* Ill., and it is not even a revelation that the specimen there figured belongs to the Javanese race of *decora* Ill., afterwards separated by Mohnike under the name *imperatrix*, as Westwood himself informs us he has represented on the plate a magnificent specimen collected in Java by Dr. Horsfield; moreover it has been mentioned also by Ritsema in the publication of the Sumatra-Expedition. I shall not correct some minor inaccurracies contained in Dr. Kraatz' paper, I am very sorry indeed that the above rectification is not exactly in favour of his hypothesis that *C. Mac Leayi* Gory should be a *C. borneensis* Wall. with the head of *Diceros (Peteli?)*. In order to show that such a strange phenomenon is not standing alone I will draw his attention to that puzzling female of *Heterorrhina mitrata* Wall., which also closely resembles *C. borneensis* Wall., were it not for its head having the same structure peculiar to the females of *Diceros*. Is it not rather funny this couple of *C. borneensis* Wall. with fancy-dress heads?

For my part I think it safer to consider *Mac Leayi* Gory as well as *mitrata* Wall. interesting connecting links between the genera *Coryphocera* and *Diceros*, combining the style of coloration of the first with the armature of the head of the second, and, if absolutely a conjecture must be made, let it be that both species under consideration really belong together as male and female, for the locality Philippine Islands of *Mac Leayi* Gory may be inaccurate as is so often the case with insects described in that period, and here it is the more probable as Gory mistook his species for *Mac Leayi* Kirby.

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